

AFSCME LOCAL 2505

March 28, 2014

Oregon State Board of Higher Education
Portland State University Board of Trustees
President Wim Wiewel

Dear Board Members, Trustees, President Wiewel and the Greater Portland Community,

I am writing on behalf of AFSCME Local 2505 whose members voted on March 27th to express our strong support for the Portland State University chapter of the American Association of University Professors (PSU-AAUP).

We stand with them in opposition to:

- The **ongoing and dramatic shift of the PSU budget away from instruction;**
- Disproportionate PSU **non-academic investments** in questionable real estate acquisitions, administrative salaries and athletics; and
- A model of **top-heavy management** for higher education that perceives students as consumers and faculty as mere generators of student hours, rather than both as partners in the governance of the University.

We urge you to settle a student-centered contract with PSU-AAUP that provides for:

- **Faculty stability** – Longer contracts insure quality and accountability to students
- **Equitable pay** – PSU faculty currently earn in the bottom 10% of salaries nationally, while Executive Administrators are being paid “market rates,” creating real challenges for recruitment, retention and morale of faculty already shouldering high course loads with little support
- **Educator-led education** – Peer review, evaluation, promotion and tenure protections are standard for the profession and are commonly protected in contracts, as illustrated by the University of Oregon’s new faculty contract
- **A student-centered model of higher education** – that focuses on academic quality and serves the Portland community, which for decades has regarded PSU as “Portland’s University” and a valuable source of opportunity, education, and research

We are now in the planning stages to mobilize our membership to support the American Association of University Professors (PSU-AAUP), as we share so many of their concerns as union members and support their work as educators.

Yours,

Stephen Sander
AFSCME Local 2505
President